China Casts an Uneasy Eye at Tokio

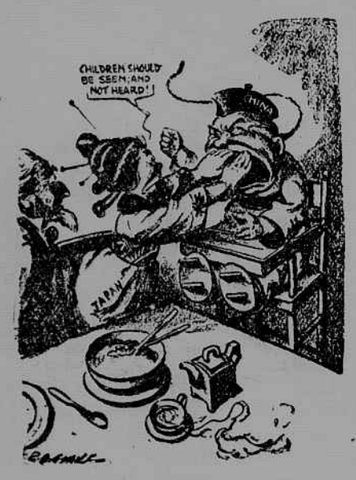
WHAT does Japan want in China? Japan says she has only the most laudable desire to help a stumbling sister. China says Japan is trying to gobble her up, and American opinion seems to sustain the Chinese view. "The Ottawa Citizen" states the position concisely as follows:

"The entrance to North China is through the Gulf of Chihli, which, in turn, is nearly closed by two pincers in the shape of peninsulas. The possession of these pincers means the possession of North China. As a result of the Japanese-Russian war the former now hold Port Arthur and Dalny on the northern arm of the pincers, and by the taking of Kiao-chou on the southern arm, virtually control all the northern part of the vast empire, and would at any time be in position to transport troops into the heart of the country."

Meanwhile, China has appealed to the peace conference, and "The Chicago Tribune" says:

"China has got Japan's hand away from her mouth long enough to utter at least one shrill call for help to the peace conference and to the United States, challenging our self-advertised championship of oppressed nationalities."

China's appeal to the peace conference was in the nature of a threat to publish the secret treaties Japan forced her to enter into in May, 1915. Japan was immediately reported to have retorted with a threat of war, if the treaties were published, and this report



—From *The Baltimore American*

was as quickly denied. But "The Philadelphia Record" observes:

"Japan is coercing China to deny that it is correct. The process cannot be concealed, and the more secrecy is maintained the more sinister the Japanese policy will be supposed to be. The wiser thing would be for Japan to open the door and disclose in full its relations with China. It is not likely that Europe and America will allow Japan to establish itself as the overlord of China, and the secrecy is a suspicious circumstance that must of itself arouse distrust of Japan. If a few millions of Poles and Slavs are to be endowed with power to control their own destinies, it is not likely that Europe and America will allow Japan to subject 400,000,000 Chinese to its own will."

"The New Orleans Times-Picayune" and "The Portland Oregonian" both think the peace conference will interfere to block Japanese designs.

"The Oregonian" called the Japan-China imbroglio the "first job for the league," and said further:

"The conduct of Japan toward China and the plea of the latter country to the peace conference suggest that one of the first duties of the five great powers may be to exert the authority of the league of nations against one of themselves while the league is still in process of incubation. Japan shows contempt for several of the fourteen points. It prefers secret treaties to open covenants. It disregards self-determination of nations by attempting to hold the piece of China which it took from Germany. It tries to hold Shantung in defiance of its promise when it declared war on Germany to return it to China. Its claim is based on conquest, not on a mandate from the league of nations."

The Chinese delegates to the peace conference charged that while their ship was lying in the harbor of Yokohama their baggage was rifled and their copies of the secret treaties that they were taking to Paris were stolen. This feature of the affair comes in for a good deal of attention from the American press. "The Memphis Commercial Appeal" writes:

"Speaking of card playing and diplomacy—for they have many psychological similarities—the heathen Chinee will have to surrender his laurels to his slant-eyed Japanese brother.

"The Chinese delegates to the peace conference left home with their grips filled with copies of malevolent secret treaties showing how the Flowery Kingdom had conspired against the land of Confucius. On their way to Paris they passed through Japan. When they arrived at Versailles they opened their baggage, to find that all of the telltale secret documents had been extracted. And 'subsequent proceedings interested them no more.'"

"The Japanese idea is that opportunity is now ripe for euchring China out of all her iron mines, railroads and other productive assets worth having. It seems to be a plain case of the big bully and the little boy, and it may be readily believed that the sympathies of the Allied powers are with China."

Leagues From the World's Dawn Onward

"THE PURPOSE to secure world peace for all time, and take away from humanity the fearsome possibility of war is a star to which statesmen have hitched their chariots since time immemorial," observes Homer R. Scoville in "Sea Power." And he goes on to sketch the various efforts of the world to do away with war:

"Leagues of independent states or tribes are frequent enough in history. One is recorded in the 14th Chapter of Genesis as having been formed some 2,000 years B. C. Then there were the Aetolian and Achæan leagues in ancient Greece in the second and third centuries B. C. The Roman Empire itself may not unreasonably be looked upon as a league of provinces, and peace was thereby secured so long as the people of those provinces obeyed orders from Rome. The Hanseatic League of 1140 A. D. and the Swiss Union consummated in 1471 are examples of true and effective leagues for mutual protection and advantage. In 1464 the powerful dukes of Calabria, Brittany and Bourbon combined against Louis XI of France, calling their alliance a 'League for the Public Good.' The idea of an ultimate world peace to grow out of such local compacts between independent states was doubtless very dimly comprehended, if at all, but the principle of getting together for mutual betterment was there evolved.

Buffers

"To the conference at Munster and Osnabruck in 1648, which produced what is sometimes called the Treaty of Westphalia, is generally ascribed the distinction of making the first clear showing of a deliberate plan and purpose to bring about an end of warfare. France, the German States, Sweden and the Pope participated and much of lasting effect was accomplished. The independence of Switzerland and the Netherlands was recognized. The principle of establishing buffer states between naturally antagonistic peoples was adopted and the theory of balance of power in Europe then and there first took form. This was, however, at the end of the Thirty Years' War. The belligerents of a generation were exhausted. No superfluous fighting energy remained seeking an outlet.

"Next in order comes the treaty consummated in that little corner of Holland called Utrecht, in 1713. France, Great Britain, Russia, the United Provinces, Portugal, Spain and Savoy arranged their differences apparently to their mutual satisfaction, and to all appearances nothing remained for the nations of the world to fight about. Gibraltar was ceded to Great Britain by Spain and France contributed Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and the Hudson Bay country to the British Empire. The buffer zone principle was again made use of. There appears to have been sincere purpose to establish a lasting world peace. It will be noted, however, that the Treaty of Utrecht came at the end of the so-called Wars of the Spanish Succession and that the first overtures for peace came from Louis XIV right after he had been defeated by the Duke of Marlborough. Ten years earlier at Lisbon, Great Britain, Netherlands and Spain had formed an alliance, but that was for war purposes only.

Two Months

"There was a treaty made at Paris in 1763 which is sometimes cited as an attempt to do away with warfare, but the next prominent series of activities along that line were grouped around the downfall of Napoleon—to wit, the First Treaty of Paris, followed closely by the elaborate Congress of Vienna in 1814, and the Second Treaty of Paris in 1815. At Paris in 1814, with Napoleon gone to Elba, Great Britain, Austria, Russia, Prussia, Portugal, Sweden and France entered into a compact declaring as its purpose 'to establish a lasting peace,' and agreed to meet again in two months at Vienna to arrange a final settlement of Europe.

"It had been previously agreed by the allies who had combined to defeat Napoleon that their alliance should not be dissolved when peace was concluded, which agreement in itself was some evidence of a sincere purpose to make a permanent peace.

"The Congress of Vienna promised in its beginning to make great strides forward toward establishing a permanent and lasting world peace. The idea of international disarmament was seriously proposed and considered. The immediate task of the Congress was to make proper disposition of the states which had been conquered by Napoleon. France had been restored as a monarchy and took part in the Congress. The Czar of Russia was present in person and attempted to dominate. The first hitch came over the disposition of Poland. England had no real interest in that, but Lord Castlereagh, the chief delegate from Great Britain, insisted upon carrying his point. When they could not agree secret treaties were made and the meeting which began so auspiciously developed into a scramble for territory. Then Napoleon's return cut short the deliberations. It is to be noted that the Allies at the First Treaty of Paris and the beginning of the Vienna Congress were genuinely well disposed toward the French people and sincerely friendly among themselves. It was the division of territory that caused the discord. It is also noteworthy that in the Second Treaty of Paris, after Napoleon was again defeated, there was a decided stiffening of terms and declarations of brotherly love were lacking.

"In 1856 there was the Congress of Paris. The business in hand was making readjustments at the close of the Crimean War. Besides attending to that the high commissioners did take a step looking toward a world peace by adopting what is known as the 'Declaration of Paris.' Four important propositions were laid down pertaining to the much discussed, but little understood, question of 'Freedom the Seas':

"(1) Privateering abolished.

"(2) Neutral flag to cover enemy goods, except contraband of war.

"(3) Neutral goods, except contraband of war, not liable to capture under enemy flag.

"(4) Blockades to be binding must be effective.

"The Congress of Berlin, in 1878, dealt principally with Balkan affairs. It met to revise the treaty made at the conclusion of the Russo-Turkish War. Rumania, Serbia and Montenegro were recognized as independent states, and Bulgaria was given self-government under a Christian ruler, remaining under Turkish control. That was a strictly war congress, and, whatever may have been attempted, events have shown that nothing was accomplished toward permanent world peace.

Red Cross

"The Geneva Convention of 1864 grew out of the horror and suffering of the Crimean War, and stands apart by itself as being of a purely humanitarian nature. That, of course, cannot be overlooked because out of it grew the Red Cross, but it has little or no significance in a search for symptoms among the nations of a desire for progress toward abolishing wars. On the contrary, it is based upon war and its principal field of usefulness will be eliminated if the time comes when wars shall be no more.

"The two Hague conventions, one in 1899 and the other in 1907, also stand apart. They were strictly anti-war in purpose and were official, as respects representation. They differed from all the others in being not post mortem, and in that there were no boundary questions to be solved and no national wounds to be treated. Just what significance there may be in the fact that the first Hague Convention was called by the Emperor of Russia, the greatest exponent of absolutism, is a problem. It is known, however, that Russia was at that time in a sad state of unpreparedness in respect to armament, and she was an eager advocate of national disarmament.

"Probably the two principal factors which operated to prevent the first Hague Convention from having greater immediate effect were, first, the question of admitting a Papal delegate, and thereby recognizing the temporal power of the Pope, and, second, the claim of the Boer Republic that it should be recognized as an unqualifiedly independent state."

The Peace Conference: Fifth Week

Saturday, February 15

President Wilson sails from Brest for Boston on the George Washington.

Before embarking, the President gives an address containing a farewell message to the French people, thanking them for their hospitality.

Mr. Wilson sends a cable message to Congress, requesting that debate on the league of nations plan be postponed until after his arrival. He invites members of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate and the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House to dine with him at the White House, February 26, to discuss the league plan.

Leon Bourgeois, speaking for France, emphasizes the danger of disarmament and the need of an international army to enforce league decisions.

The Supreme Economic Council orders all trade restrictions on commerce with Turkey and Bulgaria removed, formally opening the Dardanelles.

Discussions for a renewal of the armistice under way at Treves.

Sunday, February 16

The armistice renewed for an indefinite period at 6 o'clock p. m., at Treves. Mathias Erzeberger signs for Germany under pressure, having no choice between signing and a renewal of hostilities. The question of renewal discussed by German cabinet at Weimar until 4 p. m., Sunday, before sending final instructions to sign at all costs to Erzberger at Treves.

The armistics terms not yet made public. Correspondents observe that the reduction of German military force to a police force of 250,000, and a demand that German hostilities cease against Poland, are probably included in the armistice terms.

Monday, February 17

The Allies join in a wireless statement to President Wilson with respect to their belief that Germany and her allies should be made to pay all the costs of the war.

Correspondents observe an inclination on the part of delegations to speed the work of peace negotiations.

Tuesday, February 18

Senator Borah sends a letter to Secretary Tumulty declining the invitation to dine at the White House to discuss the league of nations.

Wednesday, February 19

The Italian delegation at Paris in an official note states it cannot accept the proposal of the Jugo-Slav delegation for arbitration of the claims of both peoples in Dalmatia.

Thursday, February 20

Premier Clemenceau shot while on his way to discuss plans for speeding up negotiations. His assailant arrested.

Friday, February 21

Secretary Lansing presides at the plenary session of the peace conference. France represented by Minister Pichon and Andre Tardieu.

Telephonics

A Playful Observation by E. V. Lucas Which Comes From "Land and Water"

AFTER fighting against it for years I now have a telephone.

Although the advantages are many, it means that I have lost the purest and rarest of life's pleasures—which was to ring up from a threepence-in-the-slot call office (as I continually had to do) and not be asked for the money. This, in many years, has happened to me twice; and only last week I met a very rich man who is normally of a gloomy cast, across whose features played a smile brilliant with triumph. It had just happened to him.

On the other hand, through having a telephone of my own I now escape one of the commonest and most tiresome of life's irritations—which is to wait outside one of these call offices while the person inside is carrying on a conversation that is not only unnecessary and frivolous but unending. In London these offices are used both by men and women, but in the suburbs by women only, who may be thought to be romantically engaged, but really are reminding their husbands not to forget the fish.

The possession of a telephone, no doubt, simplifies life, but it has brought complications, too; not merely the interruptions which can be caused by being rung up, but the perplexity incident to delays and misunderstandings and, above all, as to the constitution of exchanges. We all, I suppose, have our own idea as to what they are like, whether it be Gerrard, Central or Pad. There must at one time or other have been photographs in "The Strand Magazine," but I missed them, and, therefore, decline on a vague vision of machinery and earwired ladies. A friend is more definite: "A large building," he describes it, "like Olympus, the roof lost in darkness and pallid women moving about spinning tops and blowing penny trumpets." To me there is more of Tartarus than Olympus about it. A sufficient hell, indeed, for any misspent life, to be continually calling up numbers and continually being met with the saddest words that are known to men: "Number engaged."

I want to understand the whole telephone system. I want to know why sometimes the operator instantly says "Number, please," and why sometimes there is an interval of—well, not hours but certainly minutes. Where is she meanwhile? I want to know how the operators all get to speak exactly alike. Women can be very imitative, I am aware; the chorus girl's transition from Brixton to the Savoy can be as natural as the passage of dusk to dawn, and a change of accent is usually a part of the phenomenon; but it it astonishing how the operators of the different exchanges resemble each other. They cannot all be one and the same. (Shall I call thee girl or but a wandering voice?) Miraculous as is everything connected with the telephone—talking quietly over wires that thread the earth beneath the busiest and noisiest pavements in the world is sufficiently magical—it would be a shade too marvellous for one operator to be everywhere at once. Therefore there must be many. Is there, then, a school of elocution, where instruction in the most refined form of speech ever known is imparted, together with lessons in the trilling of the letter R? Why should they all say "No replay" when they mean "No reply"? And how do they talk at home? It must be terrible for their relations if they don't come down a peg or two there.

Those are by no means all the mysteries as to which I crave enlightenment. I want to know how the odd and alarming noises are made. There is a tapping, as of a woodpecker with delirium tremens, which at once stuns and electrifies the ear. How do they do that, and do they know what its effect is? And why does one sometimes hear other conversations over their wires and sometimes not? Why, the other morning, was I called to the telephone at least twenty times, between nine and twelve, each time to be asked "Is Mr. Boyd Carpenter there?" Each time I replied that there was no one of that name and asked what number was required; each time the next number to my own was mentioned, and each time I implored the speaker not to worry me again. But it was useless. "Is Mr. Boyd Carpenter there?" was the continual question whenever the bell rang. Why? Telephony, one gathers, is not yet an exact science. Not, that is, in real life; although on the stage and in American detective novels it seems to be perfect. The actor lifts the receiver, mentions the number, and begins instantly to talk. If he is on the film his lips move like burning rubber and his mouth becomes a shifting cavern. Do the rank and file of us, I wonder, when telephoning, thus grimace? I must fix up a mirror and see.

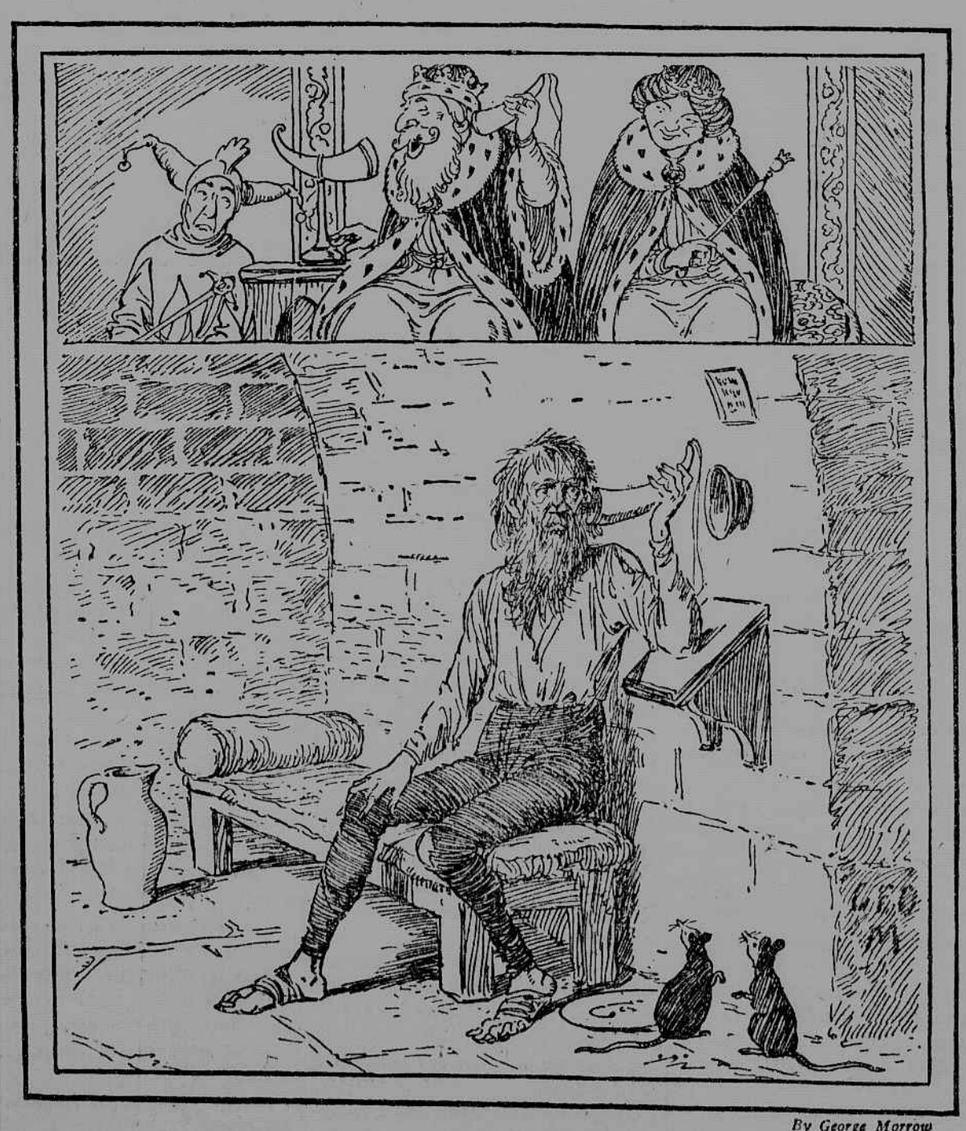
There are many good telephone stories. The best that I know is told of a journalist with a somewhat hypertrophied bump of reverence for wordly success whose employer is a peer. We will call him Blank. A number of the staff were talking together in one of the rooms of the newspaper when the telephone rang.

"You're wanted at the 'phone, Mr. Blank," said the clerk.

Blank, who was just going out to lunch, came back impatiently and snatched at the instrument. "Yes, what is it?" he snapped out.

"Is that Blank?" came back the reply. "Lord Forthestait speaking."

"Yes, my lord," said Blank, with the meekest deference, removing his hat.



By George Morrow

If the Telephone Had Been Known in the Olden Times, It Would Probably Have Ranked as a Refined Means of Torture

Voice: "Are you there?"
Prisoner in royal dungeon (hopefully): "Yes."
Voice: "Ah, that's all right, good-by!"

The Press on a Permanent Peace

Continued from page one

United States, England and France probably have reached a stage where they can surrender some of their sovereignty in respect to each other, just as every well bred man surrenders a degree of personal liberty in his dealings with other well bred men. Is it safe at this stage of civilization to apply this principle to nations of such varying degrees of culture as those that would eventually be included in the proposed league?

The Milwaukee Journal:

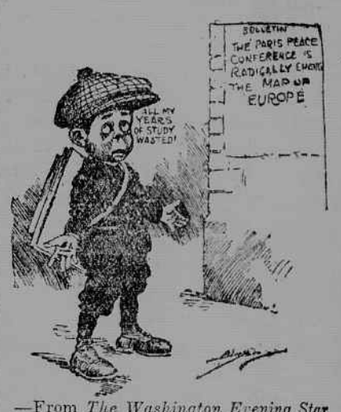
We see no reason why the nations of the world may not unite upon this plan for their joint association and action. It constitutes no threat to the peace, liberty and safety of any of them so long as they remain law-abiding and conciliatory. There is every indication that nations are ready to take this forward step. Any nation which shall refuse so to do will have taken upon itself a heavy responsibility as regards the future peace of the world.

The Atlanta Constitution:

Those who have set themselves against the league of nations idea proclaim themselves as being behind the modern thought of the world.

Their cant about "entangling alliances," about our nation's becoming involved in European affairs, etc., belongs to another age than this.

They are groping in the darkness of a long-past day and trying to make capital out of a doctrine that was enunciated before railroad trains, steamboats, the telephone,



—From *The Washington Evening Star*

the telegraph, to say nothing of the submarine, the airplane or wireless telegraphy were ever dreamed of!

That doctrine, timely, applicable and wise in its time, is wholly out of place now, because we are involved, and inextricably involved, in, not only European affairs, but the affairs of the whole world, and it is inevitable that we must forever remain so and become more and more so as time goes on and civilization advances.

The Washington Post:

The text of the proposed league reveals the bold, immovable fact that there cannot be an effective league of nations unless individual nations surrender to it a portion of their control over their military and naval programmes, their independent action in dealing with other nations, their plans for defense and the readiness to defend with instant force any unwarranted act of aggression, insult or wrong.

The question is whether the United States has such confidence in the wisdom, impartiality and strength of a league of nations as to intrust to it the really decisive share of responsibility for the welfare of this nation. If so, the constitution can be amended to permit the ratification of the treaty creating the league. If not, the league cannot include the United States as a member.

The Philadelphia Press:

Its constitutionality will be challenged at many points, but we expect to find that its language is sufficiently elastic to enable this league and covenant and our own constitution to run together without serious collision.

The Philadelphia North American:

The issue is plain—shall America surrender a certain part of her absolute sovereignty in return for the coöperative protection of civilization, exercised through a league of self-governing nation in which she will hold a chief place? A peremptory refusal, in our judgment, would be an act of recklessness. And it would be, we conceive, a denial of the idea for which democracy stands, which is faith in the intelligence, the honor and the spirit of justice which democratic nations derive from their common possession of freedom.

The Omaha Bee:

The whole plan deserves careful study, that Americans may be well informed as to just how it involves them in the business of the world. It has been suggested that for fifty years to come the only league that will be truly effective would be that of the United States and Great Britain. Between these two we will choose.

How Will the American People Receive It?

The Cleveland Plain Dealer:

There can be no doubt of the reception of the proposed constitution in America. It will receive vigorous approval from the people, regardless of whatever political efforts may be made to harass President Wilson or discount his work.

The St. Paul Pioneer Press:

The Pioneer Press entertains no doubt of the acceptance and the acquiescence of the American people—not necessarily to the covenant in the precise form in which it is now before them, but to the fundamental principles upon which it is based. We believe the people of the United States approve the general idea of this international league, whether you call it a league of nations or a quintuple alliance.

The Toronto Globe:

The league of nations is now up to the United States Senate. No man knows with certainty what its decision will be.